

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR USER DEFINED DATA OBJECT HIERARCHY

Abstract

5 The invention provides a configuration tool to allow a user to build a custom-selected
data object hierarchy, for business intelligence or other purposes. Under conventional data
storage technologies, the physical layout of the disk drive or other media has dictated what
logical views and searches a user could run on the underlying data. For instance, levels could not
10 be readily skipped or many-to-many data object relationships were difficult to maintain. In the
invention, a user may select and connect a set of data objects into a hierarchy of their choosing,
to permit desired reports and other manipulations on the data to be performed. The hierarchy
may be edited, and entry points may be defined. Different levels of security may be applied to
the different levels of the hierarchy. Multiple hierarchies or representations may be built for one
15 database or other data source.